Vol. VI. Numb. 68

# THE OBSERVATOR.

*The Conſequences that might have attended our having* Port Mahone *in our Hands. What we might probably expect from a Naval Expedition to the* Spaniſh Weſt Indies. *The Queen and Parliament ſeaſonably met, to retrieve the Loſs of our* Liſbon *and other Fleets, and capable of humbling the* French *Tyrant effectually.*

From **Wednesday**, October 22. to **Saturday**, October 25. 1707.

*Country-m.* YOU know, Maſter, we are to diſcourſe of the Inconveniency we lie under for want of a Port in the *Mediterranean*; which I have heard you ſay, would have been of vaſt Conſequence to us.

*Obſ.* 'Tis true, *Roger*; and a Thing ſo well known by Experience in the Reign of King *Charles* the II. that I wonder how it came to be neglected all this while!

*Country-m.* Why, Maſter, you may be ſure, that thoſe among us, who promoted the ill Meaſures of his Reign, will keep us from following any Thing he did, that was good, all they can. But pray go on with your Story?

*Obſ.* You muſt know, *Roger*, that during our War with the *Algerines*, King *Charles* obtain'd the Uſe of *Fort Mahone*, in the Iſle of *Minorca*, over againſt *Barcelona*, where there's an excellent Harbour, and there we had an *Arſenal* for Naval Stores, to ſupply our Ships on all Occaſions, without being at the Danger and Expence of ſending to *England* for every Thing we wanted.

*Country-m.* It's ſtrange indeed, Maſter, that none of thoſe Perſons, whoſe Names are ſtill to be ſeen at ſuch Orders of Council as were pernicious to us in that Reign, ſhould think of this now, when they pretend to be come wholly over to the Intereſt of their Country. But I beg your Pardon, Sir; pray go on.

*Obſ.* I muſt confeſs, *Roger*, I am ſurpriz'd at it, conſidering how long we have been oblig'd to ſend ſo great a Part of our Fleet into the *Mediterranean*; for all People, when they make War upon a foreign Nation, take care in the firſt Place, to aſſure themſelves of a Place of Arms, if poſſible. Thus, the *French* King ſecur'd himſelf of *Mantua*, at the Beginning of the War in *Italy*, and of *Straſburg*, when he deſign'd a War upon the Empire. *Cales* ſerv'd us as an *Arſenal* in the Reign of the late King *William*; and you ſee, *Barcelona* ſerves King *Charles* for the ſame Purpoſe; and without it, he muſt have been drove out of *Catalonia*, as he is out of the reſt of *Spain*, long ere now.

*Country-m.* Pray, Maſter, inform me of the Conſequences of having *Port Mahone* in our Poſſeſſion?

*Obſ.* Why, *Roger*, they are ſo plain, that *Joan* and young *Jug*, may underſtand it.

*Country-m.* Go, *Joan*, fetch Maſter *Obſervator* a Bottle of your beſt *October*: You may learn more from him, Huzzy, than from all your tacking Prieſts, that come a Mumping to you for Charity, or rather to attack your Chaſtity. But pray, Maſter, continue.

*Obſ.* Why, *Roger*, the Place is capable of containing our Fleet, where they may be ſafe during the Winter; and had we had an *Arſenal* there, with Proviſions, Naval Stores, as Maſts, Yards, Oak-planks, Cordage, Sails, Hemp, Pitch, Tar, Powder, Ball, Guns, and Hulks for careening our Ships, the Conſequences are plain, 1. That the *French* could not have ſent any Forces into *Italy* by Sea, for we ſhould either have block'd up *Thoulon*, or have fallen in with their Fleet and Tranſports, if they had got out.

*Country-m.* Aye, Maſter, how many thouſands of Men, and hundred thouſands of Pounds, would that have ſav'd to the Confederates?

*Obſ.* Let me go on, *Roger*; a ſecond Conſequence would have been the preventing the Siege of *Barcelona* by the *French*; which, had not Divine Providence interpos'd, muſt of Neceſſity have been taken, and all the Expence of our Blood and Treaſure for that Expedition perfectly loſt. A third Conſequence, would have been the abſolute Conqueſt of *Spain*, and ſettling King *Charles* upon the Throne, without loſing again, all the Effects of the Earl of *Peterborough*'s ſurprizing Courage and Conduct. A fourth Effect, would have been the preventing of the fatal Blow we receiv'd by the Battel of *Almanza*; for our Fleet might have tranſported ſufficient Reinforcemens of *Germans* and *Savoyards* to aſſiſt King *Charles*, and we might then have invaded *France* on the Side of *Rouſſilon* or *Navarre*; which would have given the *French* King ſo much Work at Home, as muſt, in the fifth Place, have made him uncapable of laying Siege to *Turin*, and endangering our Heroick Ally, the Duke of *Savoy*, to be totally expell'd his Dominions; which was prevented by nothing but the immediate Hand of Heaven, that inſpir'd the Duke and Prince *Eugene* with ſuch Courage and Conduct, as gave the *French* that amazing Defeat in their Trenches. In the ſixth Place, *Roger*, had *Port Mahone* been in our Hands, we might have fix'd Warehouſes of all Sorts of Commodities there, proper for a *Levant* Trade, which would ſoon have brought down the Pride and Riches of *Marſeilles*, and prevented the *French* King's worming us out of our *Turky*-Trade; and at the ſame Time, we might have wholly engroſs'd that of *Barbary*, from whence we ſhould have been eaſily ſupply'd with Horſes and Proviſions; and might have brought the pirating Towns of *Africa*, into a fair Way of Commerce, and to leave off their Robberies, to the unſpeakable Advantage of *Chriſtendom*.

*Country-m.* You have ſaid enough, Maſter, to make the Nation put on their Spectacles, and

and to take Lanthorns and Candles in their Hands, to look into all the dark Corners for thoſe Perſons (if there be any ſuch) who have neglected or miſmanag'd our Naval Affairs. I think, Maſter, Madam *Neceſſity* calls aloud upon us, and upon the Great Inqueſt of the Nation, to make a thorough Search into the Cauſes of our continual Loſſes by Sea; otherwiſe our Reputation, Security, and Trade, muſt be loſt at once.

*Obſ.* I go on with the Conſequences of our having *Port Mahone*, *Roger*. In the ſeventh Place, it would have prevented the Miſcarriage of that noble Deſign on *Thoulon*, from whence we had ſuch mighty Expectation of breaking the Naval Power of *France* at once, and of raiſing ſuch an Inſurrection in the Bowels of his Kingdom, as muſt have brought him to offer us a *Carte blanche* to command our own Terms. This would have oblig'd him to diſgorge all his unjuſt Conqueſts, to reſtore the Eſtates of his Kingdom to their former Parliamentary Power, to recal his Proteſtant Subjects, and ſend for his Grandſon the Duke of *Anjou*, to be a Play-mate for *Perkin*, the Prince of *Conti*, the Electors of *Bavaria* and *Cologn*, and the Duke of *Mantua*. Nay, more, *Roger*; it would have happily deliver'd us at Home from all the Dangers which *De Foe* ſaid there were in calling over the Electoreſs of *Hannover*, or her Son; for then we ſhould have been in no Danger of a Popiſh Wind to waft over *Perkin*, in caſe of her Majeſty's Death; and the *Hannover* Family would have had no Cauſe to think themſelves in any Danger by ſuch a Rival in *France*, or by his Faction in *England*. We ſhould at once have been deliver'd from all new Taxes, and the Great He-Whore of *Rome*, muſt not have play'd faſt and looſe with his own dear Children, not have carry'd on a War againſt the Proteſtants of *Hungary*, by the Influence of thoſe Helliſh Locuſts, the *Jeſuits*. — Nor muſt he have then pretended to form a new League, to deſtroy our old one; for we ſhould have been in a Condition to ſend Bull-dogs enough to have kiſs'd his ſtinking Toe in a rougher Manner, than the Earl of *Wiltſhire*'s Spaniel did in *Henry* the VIII's Days.

*Country-m.* Oh, Maſter! how happy might old *England* be, were our Naval Affairs ſo manag'd!

*Obſ.* Aye, *Roger*, could our Circumſtances have allow'd the brave Earl of *Peterborough* to have gone to the *Weſt Indies* with a good Squadron, what might we not have expected from his Lordſhip, when a few of our Buccaneers could take *Panama*, and other Towns, both on the *North* and *South* Sides of *America*? Had the *Spaniards* once ſeen us in a Likelihood of ſeizing their Mines and Plate-Fleets for the Uſe of King *Charles*, and for carrying on the War, as the *French* King does againſt us, they would ſoon have ſent Home his Grandſon with a Flea in his Ear; and we might then have poſſeſs'd our Selves of ſuch Poſts on that Continent, and have kept them too, according to the Articles of the Alliance, as would have commanded a better Share in the Trade of both the *Indies*, than we have had yet, or ever can have, except ſome ſuch Meaſures be follow'd.

*Country-m.* Oh! Maſter, *Roger*'s Heart is almoſt broke; all the *October* in my *Cellar* can't keep up my ſinking Spirits. *Joan* and *Jug* muſt be forc'd to rub my Temples, to keep me from fainting.

*Obſ.* What's the Matter, *Roger*?

*Country-m.* Read that Letter, Sir! God help us, there's too much Matter! The taking of our Convoy for *Liſbon*, has open'd all the Wounds poor *Roger*'s Heart receiv'd by the other Loſſes we have had ſince *April* laſt. What, *Ruſſia*-Fleet, *Hamburg*-Fleet, *Liſbon*-Fleet, *Harwich* in Danger of being burnt, our Ally, the King of *Portugal*, loſing his Towns, and now his Horſes, and other Materials for carrying on the War! Pray God we don't loſe himſelf, Maſter, and that the Walls of old *England* be not quite batter'd down at laſt, when ſuch frequent Breeches are made in them.

*Obſ.* You have got the Hippo, *Roger*; you muſt not look on the black Clouds only: Our Sky begins to clear; we have maul'd the *French* in *Newfound-land*; *Lerida* may prove another *Turin* to them. Our glorious Queen, and her Great Council, the Parliament, are met; the preſumptive Heir of our Crown, has given the *French* a Check on the *Rhine* lately, and is at the Head of a gallant Army. Our Hero, the Duke of *Marlborough*, is gone to concert Meaſures with him; and our Heroine, the Queen, with her glorious Senate, is ſtill capable of ſtriking Terror into the Heart of the *French* Tyrant, to make him faint as much as you do, *Roger*, and to ſend him a grazing among the Beaſts, like *Nebuchadnezzar*. *Voadicea*, a *Britiſh* Queen, at the Head of a *Britiſh* Army, defeated the invincible *Romans*. Queen *Elizabeth*, with a little Fleet, well manag'd, and by the Help of our noble *London* Merchant-men, and the Bleſſing of Heaven, ruin'd the invincible *Spaniſh Armado*. Her preſent Majeſty (God be thank'd) gave the *French* Naval Power a mortifying Blow at *Vigo*, and maul'd their Great Fleet off of *Malaga*; which are ſufficient to ſhew, that a *Britiſh* Queen, at the Head of a *Britiſh* Parliament, is capable of taking ſuch Meaſures, as may retrieve all our Loſſes; and, by the Bleſſing of God, make her Arms as glorious by Sea, as they have been by Land. We hope they are ſeaſonably met for that Purpoſe, *Roger*.

*Country-m.* May God bleſs her Majeſty, and her noble Lords and Commons, for that End.

*Obſ.* All the People ſay Amen, *Roger*.


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